

**House Insurance Committee
December 12, 2017**

**Testimony of Delta Dental of Michigan, Rick Lantz, Chief Lobbyist and Manager of Public Policy
Senate Bills 631 and 673**

Good morning, Chairperson Theis and members of the House Insurance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SBs 631 and 673. I am Rick Lantz, chief lobbyist and manager of public policy for Delta Dental of Michigan. Delta Dental is a nonprofit dental care corporation that exists to improve oral health for Michigan residents.

Delta Dental operates under the authority of Public Act 125 of 1963. A provision in this act lists certain requirements regarding the makeup of our board of directors. Among other requirements, the act specifies that 40 to 60 percent of our board members must be dentists who are approved by the Michigan Dental Association.

For many years, Delta Dental and the Michigan Dental Association have worked cooperatively on issues of mutual interest, and in particular, on public policy matters and programs designed to improve access to dental care for underserved populations. In recent years, however, our two organizations have disagreed about certain aspects of the process by which our dentist board members are approved by the Michigan Dental Association. As such, Delta Dental sought the introduction of SB 631, which reforms that process.

The Michigan Dental Association had concerns about the changes specified in the introduced version of SB 631. At the urging of Senators Shirkey and Hune, Delta Dental and the Michigan Dental Association held several conversations to determine if a compromise could be achieved. After much discussion, our two organizations did in fact reach an agreement. In addition to changes to SB 631, the compromise necessitated the introduction of SB 673.

Together, the two bills:

- change the way in which dentists are selected to serve on Delta Dental's board, but maintain the requirement that Delta Dental's board includes dentists who are members of the Michigan Dental Association
- subject Delta Dental to three provisions in the insurance code – genetic testing, telemedicine, and prompt pay

There is one technical amendment to SB 673 for the committee's consideration this morning. It merely changes the way in which the prompt payment requirements are applied to nonprofit dental care corporations. Both Delta Dental and the Michigan Dental Association have agreed to the amendment.

Having reached this compromise, we now respectfully request committee approval of SBs 631 and 673. Thank you.